

To the Norwegian Nobel Institute
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Dear Sirs of the Nobel Peace Center

We are an Italian organisation that has been working together with some Afghan women's associations since 1999; during these years we have had the opportunity to meet a lot of Afghan women in their country, and to see with our own eyes how much strength and determination they put to lift themselves out of a heavy oppression through work, study, and awareness of their rights.

Afghan women are perfectly aware that none of the regimes or governments of the past decades has really worked to guarantee them a dignified and free life.

Nevertheless, their tireless work is still going on, despite all difficulties and threats.

You are surely aware of the inhuman rules the Taliban regime imposes on women and girls. For more than 1.000 days, girls were not allowed to continue their studies after primary school and are submitted to what can be called "gender apartheid".

Afghanistan is the only country in the world that prevents education for women.

Women in Afghanistan have been deprived of all rights: they cannot travel, work, have proper medical care and an independent life.

We came to know that on September 5th 2024, the *Woman, life freedom* conference will be held in Oslo, and that Fawzia Koofi, belonging to a very influential family and former member of Afghan parliament has been invited as a speaker.

This lady and her family have been responsible for abuses and corruption in their country.

Mrs Fawzia Koofi and her sister Mariam have always used their political power to protect their brothers, prosecuted for drug trade. She has always used her position to keep for herself or her own business a large part of the funding received from western governments, originally destined to build schools or houses for the population.

See also: <https://x.com/TheLostJalalzai/status/1788601992006242361>

These facts have been reported by the residents of Badakhshan, the region where she was elected, together with photos and documents ([See the real face of Fawzia Koofi and her corrupt family! « RAWA News](#))

As a member of parliament and vice president of the Afghan National Assembly, Fawzia Koofi has been responsible of having supported a corrupt and incompetent government, whose members are warlords, in power because of the cruelties committed and not for their political skills. However, the

purely marginal and formal role of women within this government does not justify their responsibility in supporting it for personal profit.

Fawzia Koofi also lent her support to the agreements between US and the Taliban in Doha in 2020, to allow them to return to power, by participating directly to the negotiations and by providing a shadow of democracy to a manoeuvre which consequences fell back on the shoulders of Afghan people, women in particular, while the former rulers were escaping from the country, as she did.

We quote here the words of Belquis Roshan, opposition senator in the Upper House of the Afghan parliament during the previous government, forced to leave her country for serious security reasons and now refugee in Europe. On August 26th 2023, during a meeting with Richard Bennett, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, and delegates at the first UN session to discuss “gender apartheid” in Afghanistan, Roshan states: “Women who protest are persecuted, therefore international institutions should be their voice. Instead of sponsoring and supporting a few Taliban female lobbyists who are the cause of this miserable situation, women who are bravely fighting against the Taliban in Afghanistan should be given the opportunity to let their pro-democracy cries be heard”.

We consider the facts charged against Ms Koofi very serious and ask you to take into consideration and verify our complaint.

For Cisdà

Graziella Mascheroni (President)

